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27367 7590 11/10/2008

WESTMAN CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.
SUITE 1400
900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3244

EXAMINER

ALPHONSE, FRITZ

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2112

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/506,521	03/14/2005	Alexandre Rouxel	W51.12-0016	3090

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR PROCESSING A SIGNAL USING AN APPROXIMATE MAP ALGORITHM AND CORRESPONDING USES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	02/10/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

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If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

27367 7590 11/10/2008
WESTMAN CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.
SUITE 1400
900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3244

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or by facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/506,521	03/14/2005	Alexandre Rouxel	W51.12-0016	3090

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	02/10/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ALPHONSE, FRITZ	2112	714-794000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).	2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.	1_____
<input type="checkbox"/> "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.	2_____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE _____

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY) _____

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:	4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee	<input type="checkbox"/> A check is enclosed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
<input type="checkbox"/> Advance Order - # of Copies _____	<input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).
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NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS; SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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WESTMAN CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.				ALPHONSE, FRITZ
SUITE 1400				ART UNIT
900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH				PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3244				2112
				DATE MAILED: 11/10/2008

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 591 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 591 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/506,521	ROUXEL, ALEXANDRE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to the amendment after final filed on 10/20/2008.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - All
 - Some*
 - None
 of the:
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- Notice of Informal Patent Application
- Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other _____.

JACQUES H LOUIS-JACQUES/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2100

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David D. Brush on 10/29/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1.

(Currently Amended) Signal processing method using a MAP (Maximum A Posteriori) type algorithm to determine a likelihood ratio A_k^X of a set of states X of a lattice at instant k, each of the said states being associated with at least one intermediate variable, belonging to the group including a so-called "forward" variable and a so-called "backward" variable, propagated by the said MAP algorithm and calculated recursively, in a direct direction by a first Viterbi decoder and in an indirect direction by a second Viterbi decoder respectively at the said instant k with respect to the said lattice, wherein the method comprises the following steps performed by a communication signal receiver:

reducing the number of states selected by the said MAP type algorithm so as to calculate the said likelihood ratio;

calculating said likelihood ratio for the selected states;

assigning at least one determined value to the corresponding said forward variable calculated by

the first Viterbi decoder and/or backward variable calculated by the second Viterbi decoder, so as to calculate an approximate likelihood ratio, at least for some non-selected states; and calculating said approximate likelihood ratio at least for some non-selected states; and wherein at a given instant k, with $0 \leq k \leq K$, said at least one determined value $a(k)$ assigned to said forward variable is smaller than a minimum value of said forward variable at said instant k and/or said at least one determined value $b(k)$ assigned to said backward variable is smaller than a minimum value of said backward variable at said instant k.

Claim 25.

25. (Currently Amended)

A communication signals receiver comprising means for implementing a MAP (Maximum A Posteriori) type algorithm to determine a likelihood ratio A_X of a set of states X of a lattice at instant k , wherein each of the said states is associated with at least one intermediate variable belonging to the group comprising a so-called "forward" variable and a so-called "backward" variable propagated by the said MAP algorithm and calculated recursively in a direct direction by a first Viterbi decoder and in an indirect direction direction by a second Viterbi decoder respectively at the said instant k with respect to the said lattice, wherein the means for implementing the MAP type algorithm further comprises: means in the receiver of reducing the number of states selected by the said MAP type algorithm in order to make a calculation of the said likelihood ratio, means in the receiver of calculating said likelihood ratio for the selected states, for at least some non-selected states and said approximate likelihood ratio at least for some non-selected states, means in the receiver for assigning at least one determined value to the corresponding said

forward variable calculated by the first Viterbi decoder and/or backward variable calculated by the second Viterbi decoder, so as to calculate an approximate likelihood ratio; means in the receiver of calculating said approximate likelihood ratio at least for some non-selected states; and

wherein at a given instant k, with $0 \leq k \leq K$, said at least one determined value a(k) assigned to said forward variable is smaller than a minimum value of said forward variable at said instant k and/or said at least one determined value b(k) assigned to said backward variable is smaller than a minimum value of said backward variable at said instant k.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. After further search and thorough examination of the present application and in view of the prior art of record and Applicant Arguments/Remarks, claims 1-25 are found to be in condition for allowance.

Reason for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention relates to a method for processing a signal using an approximate maximum a posteriori algorithm for determining a likelihood ratio of a set of states of a lattice.

To achieve the inventive goal, independent claims 1 and 25 identify the distinct features "assigning at least one determined value to the corresponding said forward variable calculated by the first Viterbi decoder and/or backward variable calculated by the second Viterbi decoder, so as to calculate an approximate likelihood ratio, at least for some non-selected states; and calculating said approximate likelihood ratio at least for some non-selected states; and wherein at a given instant k, with $0 \leq k \leq K$, said at least one determined value a(k) assigned to

said forward variable is smaller than a minimum value of said forward variable at said instant k and/or said at least one determined value b(k) assigned to said backward variable is smaller than a minimum value of said backward variable at said instant k.”

The first cited reference, Hladik (US Put. No. 6,192,501) discloses a high data rate maximum a posteriori decoder including a forward and backward variable propagated by a MAP algorithm. The second cited reference, Kobayashi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,320,916) discloses a recording/reproducing apparatus which calculates an appropriate likelihood ratio for some non-selected states.

However, the features disclosed in the claims of the instant application (No. 11/506,561) are neither anticipated nor render obvious by the prior art of record.

These limitations, in conjunction with all other limitations of the base claims were not shown by, would not have been obvious over, would not have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRITZ ALPHONSE whose telephone number is (571)272-3813. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00, Alt. Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis-Jacques can be reached on 571-272-6962. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3813. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00, Alt. Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis-Jacques, can be reached at (571) 272-6962.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3824

Information regarding the status of an application may also be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/FA/

Examiner, Art Unit 2112

10/30/2008

/JACQUES H LOUIS-JACQUES/

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Art Unit: 2112

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2100